REMARKS

Applicant respectfully points out that Examiner appears to have responded to an old amendment which was mailed to the USPTO on June 24, 2005, and which was received by the USPTO on June 27, 2005. Specifically, Examiner does not appear to have responded to the last amendment which was mailed to the USPTO on November 17, 2005, and which was received by the USPTO on November 21, 2005.

In the Official Action mailed on **22 March 2006,** the Examiner reviewed claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, and 17-24. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, and 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meffert et al (USPub 2002/0059144, hereinafter "Meffert") in view of Liu (USPub 2002/0143710, hereinafter "Liu").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 8 and 15 were rejected as being unpatentable over Meffert in view of Liu.

Applicant respectfully points out that the combined invention of **Meffert and Liu is directed towards securely transmitting a message** from a sender to a recipient. Specifically, Meffert teaches a method for implementing a PKI-based encryption between a sender and a recipient (see Meffert, Abstract). On the other hand, Liu's invention allows a sender to obtain irrefutable proof that a recipient received a message (see Liu, [0034]). Further, Liu teaches how to prevent the sender from fooling the recipient into sending a signed receipt (see Liu, [0045]-[0047]).

However, Liu does not teach how to prevent a sender from denying that he/she sent a message in the first place. Applicant respectfully points out that the combined invention of Meffert and Liu is directed towards empowering the sender, but it is not directed towards empowering the recipient. Specifically, the

9

combined invention of **Meffert and Liu does not enable the recipient to convincingly prove that the sender sent the message.**

Note that proving that a sender sent a message is different from authentication. Authentication only helps when the recipient wants to ensure that the sender who claims to have sent the message is really the sender, and not an imposter. However, authentication does not help when the sender denies ever sending the message.

Being able to prove that a sender sent a message is important (see [0005]). For example, if the recipient performs certain actions in reliance of the fact that the sender sent a message, it is critical to enable the system to prove that the sender sent the message, regardless of whether the recipient sent a signed receipt or not (see [0005]). For example, this capability can be very important when there is a contract dispute between the sender and the recipient (see [0005]).

In contrast to both Meffert and Liu, the **present invention is directed towards enabling a database system to prove that the sender sent the message** and the recipient received the message (see [0005]). Specifically, the database system persistently stores a signed message digest with the message (see [0008], [0034], [0038]). The recipient can use this signed message digest which is **persistently** stored in the database to prove that the sender sent the message (see [0008], [0035]).

There is nothing within Meffert or Liu, either explicit or implicit, which suggests or motivates enabling a database system to prove that a sender sent a message, thereby preventing the sender from persuasively denying that he/she sent the message.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15 to clarify that the present invention is directed towards enabling a database system to prove that an origin system sent a message. The present invention persistently stores a signed message digest with the message, which enables the database to present the signed message digest as proof that the origin system sent the message,

10

thereby preventing the sender from persuasively denying that the sender sent the message. These amendments find support in paragraphs [0005], [0008]-[0009], [0032]-[0035], and [0038] of the instant application.
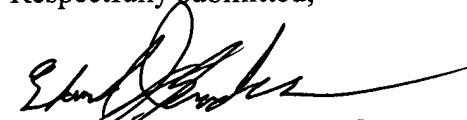
Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8 and 15 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 3-7 and 22, which depend upon claim 1, claims 10-14 and 23, which depend upon claim 8, and claims 17-21 and 24, which depend upon claim 15, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By

Edward J. Grundler
Registration No. 47,615

Date: 5 June 2006

Edward J. Grundler
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP
2820 Fifth Street
Davis, CA 95616-7759
Tel: (530) 759-1663
FAX: (530) 759-1665
Email: edward@parklegal.com